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characters, and induces the flow of nutritive substances to these cells, and hypertrophy results. On the decay of the tubercle, the germ-like bodies pass into the soil (where they can always be found) and infect other roots; it is very probable they may be of extreme importance in agriculture."

*Tubercles on the Roots of Leguminosæ.** (Journ. Roy. Mic. Soc. 1887, p. 610.)

The studies conducted by A. Tschirsh lead him to the conclusion that they occur on all species of this order, always on the roots; that they are storage organs for nitrogenous matters previous to the ripening of the seeds, and attain their maximum development when the plant is in flower. They are of two kinds, the *Lupinus* type and *Robinia* type.

Tubercles on the Roots of Alder and Elæagnaceæ.† (Journ. Roy. Mic. Soc. 1887, p. 611.)

B. Frank has modified his previous views as to their nature and differs entirely from those who regard them as due to parasitic fungi; they prove to be accumulations of newly formed albuminous substances and are therefore identical with those on the Leguminosæ. "The alleged parasitic fungi *Schinzia Alni*, *S. Leguminosarum*, *Plasmodiophora Alni*, and *Frankia subtilis* must therefore be erased from mycology."

Proceedings of the Club.

A meeting was held on Tuesday evening, August 9th, 1887, in Hamilton Hall, Columbia College, President Newberry in the chair, and forty-five persons present. Among the visitors were many members of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. In the absence of the Secretary, Dr. N. L. Britton was elected Secretary *pro tempore.*

Mrs. Cornelius Van Brunt, Mr. C. S. Boyer, and Jacob J. J. Gress were elected Active Members.

The Secretary read a letter from Dr. George Vasey calling attention to the fact that the United States Government has done nothing for botanical exploration for many years; stating also that the Herbarium of the Department of Agriculture is wanting in many things that can only be procured by special effort. On motion, the President appointed a committee, consisting of Messrs. Thomas Hogg, Jos. Schrenk and N. L. Britton, to draft resolutions expressing the desirability of making the Herbarium of the Department of Agriculture as complete as possible.

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* Ber. Deutsch. Bot. Gesell. v, (1887), pp. 58–98, (1 pl).

† Ber. Deutsch. Bot. Gesell. v, (1887), pp. 50–58, (1 pl).

Dr. Newberry remarked on the relations of *Pinus edulis*, Englm., and *P. monophylla*, Torr. and Frem., and referred to his former papers on the subject. (See BULLETIN, May, 1885, and October, 1886). He exhibited specimens collected by Marcus E. Jones at Lewiston, Utah, which show both the single and double needles on the same branch, proving that the species are not distinct, and that Sir Joseph Hooker's view is erroneous. (See Gardener's Chronicle, July 31st, 1886). Mr. Jones states in a letter accompanying the specimens, that some trees have about half the leaves double, and half single.

Prof. Schrenk exhibited specimens of *Halenia deflexa*, Griseb., from Coshecton, Sullivan Co., N. Y.

Dr. Rusby remarked on the use of botanical names by pharmacists, stating that many are merely trade names, and that there is often great difficulty in ascertaining what species is really meant. If it were practicable to insist that the author should always be cited, much confusion would be avoided. Mr. A. A. Crozier spoke of the same difficulty in tracing the names of cultivated, ornamental species.

Dr. R. E. Kunzé exhibited and distributed blossoms of *Cereus nycticalus*, Link., which were much admired.

Dr. Britton showed *Plantago Patagonica*, Jacq., var. *aristata*, Gray, collected by Rev. R. E. Schuh at Rutherford, N. J., where it is abundant in one locality. Prof. T. C. Porter stated that it formerly grew on the campus of Lafayette College at Easton, Pa., but has now disappeared. Mr. E. B. Southwick reported it from Riverside Drive, New York Island. Prof. Farlow had seen it at Wood's Holl, Mass.; and Prof. Claypole at Akron, Ohio. At all these stations it appears to be a mere waif.

Prof. Porter remarked on the occurrence of *Amphiachyris dracunculoides*, Nutt., at Easton, where it was introduced in hay from the West, and of *Blephilia ciliata*, Raf., near the same place. The method of introduction of the latter is not yet explained.

Prof. Claypole reported *Nelumbium luteum*, Willd., from Congress Lake, near Akron, Ohio. Dr. Newberry remarked on the dissemination of *Nelumbium* by the Indians, who used the seeds for food. Hon. D. F. Day spoke of its occurrence in Grand River, forty miles west of Buffalo, and said that Mr. C. E. Smith had informed him of a station for the plant on the northern shore of Lake Ontario. Dr. Farlow and Dr. Rusby spoke of the station at Osterville, Cape Cod. Judge Day remarked on the Mummy specimens of *Nelumbium speciosum*, Willd., in the museum of the New York Historical Society. Dr. Britton stated that he had recently been informed by Dr. C. C. Abbott that *N. speciosum*, Willd., had escaped from the grounds of Mr. Sturtevant at Bordentown, N. J., and was becoming naturalized in streams flowing into the Delaware River.

Mr. E. E. Sterns showed fruit of the Soapberry (*Sapindus marginatus*, Willd.), and remarked on its use as a substitute for soap. Dr. Newberry said that the most delicate fabrics may be washed with it, without injury; he remarked further on other "soap-plants,"—*Yucca*, *Dasylirion*, *Agave*, etc., and stated that an attempt was being made in Mexico to utilize the parenchymatous tissues of some of these plants after the fibre had been separated for cordage.

Miss Steele exhibited a mounted set of the plants from the vicinity of New York, prepared by members of the Club for distribution to the visiting botanists of the A. A. A. S. In spite of the very unfavorable season for collecting, sixty-three species were obtained.

Dr. Newberry remarked on the geological history of *Liquidambar*, and showed a large number of drawings and specimens of Cretaceous and Tertiary species of this and other genera. In the ensuing discussion, Prof. Porter, speaking of the present distribution of the tree, said that there are a few individuals along the Delaware River, in northeastern Pennsylvania, but he had not observed any in the central portions of that State. Dr. Newberry had not met with it in Ohio, and Judge Day said it was not native in western New York. Dr. Kunzé called attention to the fact that the gum abounds in benzoic acid, and asked how far north the tree produced this gum, which appears to be difficult to obtain in commercial quantities.

The Club then adjourned till October 11th.

Proceedings of the Botanical Club of the A. A. A. S.,

New York Meeting, Aug 11th to 16th, 1887.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 11th,

In the absence of Mr. M. S. Bebb, the Chairman elect, Rev. Thomas Morong was called to the chair.

Prof. W. J. Beal read a paper on the character of the rootstock in *Leersia* and *Muhlenbergia*, illustrated by diagrams.

Prof. Volney M. Spalding read a paper prepared by Miss Florence May Lyon, entitled "Dehiscence of the Sporangium of *Adiantum pedatum*" * Prof. George Macloskie remarked that he had observed that when examined with a bulls-eye condenser, sporangia would burst and eject the spores to a distance of a yard or more, and attributed this action to heat. Prof. Joseph Schrenk referred to the paper by Plantl,† already reviewed by him in the BULLETIN, Vol., xiii p. 168.

A paper by Prof. Charles E. Bessey, entitled "A Meeting-place for two Floras,"‡ was read by the Secretary.

The Committee of the Torrey Botanical Club, which had in charge the collection of rarer plants of the vicinity of New York for distribution, announced that printed lists of the plants had been prepared and invited the members to select from these lists such species as they desired.

The following letter was read by the Secretary:

THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA,
DEPARTMENT OF BOTANY,
AUGUST 8th, 1887.

To the Members of the Botanical Club of the A. A. A. S.:

Allow me as an absent member of the Club to urge that action be taken looking to an improvement in the condition of the National Herbarium at Washington, D. C.

This action should refer to the following points, viz:

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* Ber. Deutsch. Bot. Gesell., iv, p. 42.

† See this BULLETIN, p. 189.

‡ See this BULLETIN, p. 180.